



CAMBRIDGE

Middlesex County



[NARRATIVE](#)
[GEOGRAPHY](#)
[GOVERNMENT](#)
[DEMOGRAPHICS](#)
[HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS](#)
[TRANSPORTATION](#)
[CULTURE AND RECREATION](#)
[MISCELLANEOUS](#)



NARRATIVE

Narrative

Cambridge is a unique community in its mix of cultural and social diversity, intellectual vitality and technical innovation. The city is home to internationally known Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and over one-fourth of all its residents are college students, while one-sixth of all its jobs are in higher education. Yet residents feel that Cambridge is far more than a college town. It has long been an industrial innovator, producing America's first factories for ladders, piano keys and waterproof hats. At one point, it was the third largest industrial center in the Commonwealth. Today, former factory buildings which once turned out soap or socks house cutting edge firms in biotechnology, computer software and other emerging technologies. Close to one-third of Massachusetts' biomedical employers reside in Cambridge. Cambridge is rich in demographic diversity. More than one in five residents is foreign born. Students from 64 nations attend the public schools, and their families speak 46 different languages. The most numerous immigrant groups hail from Haiti, Central America and Portuguese-speaking nations, including Brazil. An out-of-town visitor might enjoy a Greek festival or a Caribbean gala on the same weekend and buy Portuguese pastries or fresh fish in one block. The continued vitality of its immigrants and entrepreneurs, students and street musicians, factory workers and professionals gives Cambridge its unique flavor.

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Eastern Massachusetts, bordered by Boston on the east and south, Watertown and Belmont on the west, and Somerville and Arlington on the north. Cambridge is 2 miles west of Boston, 25 miles south of Lowell, 37 miles east of Worcester, and 218 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 7.13 sq. miles

Land Area: 6.43 sq. miles

Population: 95,802

Density: 14,899 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Boston WSO Station)

Normal temperature in January.....28.6°F

Normal temperature in July.....73.5°F

Normal annual precipitation.....41.5"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Boston South, Lexington, Boston North, Newton

Regional Planning Agency

Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Boston



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (617) 349-4000

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Council-Manager

City Manager

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1636

As a city: 1846

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	43,440		
Democrats	27,234	62.7	%
Republicans	2,919	6.7	%
Other parties	53	0.1	%
Unenrolled Voters	13,234	30.5	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Cambridge city, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	101,355	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	101,355	100.0
Male.....	49,674	49.0	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	7,455	7.4
Female.....	51,681	51.0	Mexican.....	1,175	1.2
Under 5 years.....	4,125	4.1	Puerto Rican.....	1,637	1.6
5 to 9 years.....	3,602	3.6	Cuban.....	270	0.3
10 to 14 years.....	3,664	3.6	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	4,373	4.3
15 to 19 years.....	7,438	7.3	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	93,900	92.6
20 to 24 years.....	16,090	15.9	White alone.....	65,425	64.6
25 to 34 years.....	25,202	24.9	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	13,942	13.8	Total population.....	101,355	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	11,144	11.0	In households.....	86,692	85.5
55 to 59 years.....	4,013	4.0	Householder.....	42,615	42.0
60 to 64 years.....	2,853	2.8	Spouse.....	12,408	12.2
65 to 74 years.....	4,687	4.6	Child.....	16,362	16.1
75 to 84 years.....	3,362	3.3	Own child under 18 years.....	12,293	12.1
85 years and over.....	1,233	1.2	Other relatives.....	3,378	3.3
Median age (years).....	30.4	(X)	Under 18 years.....	844	0.8
18 years and over.....	87,908	86.7	Nonrelatives.....	11,929	11.8
Male.....	42,746	42.2	Unmarried partner.....	2,685	2.6
Female.....	45,162	44.6	In group quarters.....	14,663	14.5
21 years and over.....	79,078	78.0	Institutionalized population.....	506	0.5
62 years and over.....	10,884	10.7	Noninstitutionalized population.....	14,158	14.0
65 years and over.....	9,282	9.2	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	3,618	3.6	Total households.....	42,615	100.0
Female.....	5,664	5.6	Family households (families).....	17,595	41.3
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	7,503	17.6
One race.....	96,734	95.4	Married-couple family.....	12,408	29.1
White.....	69,022	68.1	With own children under 18 years.....	4,835	11.3
Black or African American.....	12,079	11.9	Female householder, no husband present.....	4,116	9.7
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	290	0.3	With own children under 18 years.....	2,342	5.5
Asian.....	12,096	11.9	Nonfamily households.....	25,020	58.7
Asian Indian.....	2,720	2.7	Householder living alone.....	17,649	41.4
Chinese.....	4,854	4.8	Householder 65 years and over.....	3,909	9.2
Filipino.....	265	0.3	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	8,066	18.9
Japanese.....	943	0.9	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	7,218	16.9
Korean.....	1,901	1.9	Average household size.....	2.03	(X)
Vietnamese.....	235	0.2	Average family size.....	2.83	(X)
Other Asian ¹	1,118	1.1	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	77	0.1	Total housing units.....	44,725	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	28	-	Occupied housing units.....	42,615	95.3
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	16	-	Vacant housing units.....	2,110	4.7
Samoa.....	9	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	24	-	occasional use.....	587	1.3
Some other race.....	3,230	3.2	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.9	(X)
Two or more races.....	4,621	4.6	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	2.6	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: ³			Occupied housing units.....	42,615	100.0
White.....	72,213	71.2	Owner-occupied housing units.....	13,760	32.3
Black or African American.....	13,959	13.8	Renter-occupied housing units.....	28,855	67.7
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	853	0.8	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.16	(X)
Asian.....	13,265	13.1	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	1.97	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	251	0.2			
Some other race.....	5,734	5.7			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -
[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)
[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State	789
Conventional Federal	1,927

Rental Assistance (DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP)	219
Federal (Section 8)	1,763



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Cambridge is situated in the Greater Boston Area, which has excellent rail, air, and highway facilities. State Route 128 and Interstate Route 495 divide the region into inner and outer zones, which are connected by numerous "spokes" providing direct access to the airport, port, and intermodal facilities of Boston.

Major Highways

Principal highways are State Routes 2, 2A, 16, and 38 and U.S. Route 3. The Massachusetts Turnpike runs just south of Cambridge and is easily accessible at the Allston-Brighton interchange.

Rail

Commuter rail service available at Porter Square (10 min. to Boston; no MBTA parking). MBTA Red Line service available at Kendall Square (4 min. to Park Street), Central Square, Harvard Square (11 min.), Porter Square, and Alewife (18 min. from Park Street; 2,209 MBTA parking spaces). Green Line service available at Lechmere (8 min. to Government Center; 323 MBTA parking spaces). Springfield Terminal Railway (508-663-1073) provides freight service.

Bus

Cambridge is a member of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) which provides fixed route bus service to neighboring communities. The MBTA also provides THE RIDE, a paratransit service for the elderly and disabled.

Other

Cambridge is located on the Charles River, which is connected by a 14-foot channel to Boston Inner Harbor. Boston docks and Logan International Airport are easily accessible, providing excellent shipping service by sea and air. Competitive truck lines connect the city to all parts of New England and points west and south.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

Botanical Museum of Harvard University
26 Oxford Street
(617) 495-2326
Cambridge Historical Society
159 Brattle Street
(617) 547-4252
Gray Herbarium
22 Divinity Avenue
(617) 495-2365
Harvard Semitic Museum
6 Divinity Avenue
(617) 495-4631
Harvard University Art Museums
32 Quincy Street
(617) 495-9400
Longfellow National Historic Site
105 Brattle Street
(617) 876-4491
Margaret Hutchinson Compton Gallery
77 Massachusetts Avenue
(617) 253-4444
Mineralogical Museum of Harvard University
24 Oxford Street
(617) 495-4758
The MIT Museum
265 Massachusetts Avenue
(617) 253-4444
MIT-List Visual Arts Center
Weisner Building, 20 Ames Street
(617) 253-4680
Museum of Comparative Zoology
26 Oxford Street
(617) 495-2463
Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology
11 Divinity Avenue
(617) 495-2248

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

Cambridge Hospital
Harvard University Health Services
M.I.T. Infirmary
Mount Auburn Hospital
Youville Hospital & Rehab. Ctr

Long Term Care

Cambridge Homes
Cambridge Nursing Home
Cantabridgia Health Care N.F.
Harvard Manor Nursing Home
Mayor M. J. Neville Manor
Sancta Maria Nursing Facility
Vernon Hall, Inc.

Hospices

Hospice Of Cambridge, Inc.

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.